

Serial No.: 09/218,783

Attorney Docket No. 98P7977

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15. (Twice Amended) A system for enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising:

- a request unit to enable operation of the group pickup system when there is an unanswered call at a member station;
- a connect unit responsive to said request unit to make local and/or remote connections to various local and/or remote group member stations within the network which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations; and
- a call establishing unit for establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

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22. (Twice Amended) A method of enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising:

- enabling the group pickup operation when there is an unanswered call at a member station anywhere on the network;
- making local and/or remote connections to various local and/or remote group member stations which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations;
- and establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

#### REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1, 9, 12, 15, and 22 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ayala U.S. Patent No. 5,809,130 ("Ayala"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single, prior

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reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Ayala.

As discussed in the Specification, the present invention relates to an improved supplementary service for telephone system users. In particular, group pickup is a supplementary service often used by one member station of a group to answer or pick up telephone calls intended for or ringing at a different member station within the same call group. The present invention allows supplementary services such as group pickup to be accomplished network-wide, with respect to both local and remote group members. That is, in one embodiment, a distributed architecture is provided in which group pickup service components are resident in every server which has members of one or more pickup groups. In another embodiment, group pickup service is resident at a group server only, but group members may be distributed across the network as members of one or more remote servers. Thus, claim 1 has been amended to recite a "group" server; and claim 9 and claim 12 have been amended to recite a "group" parking location located anywhere within the network; claims 15 and 22 have been amended to recite "local and/or remote" group member stations.

In contrast, Ayala explicitly states that "stations are not divided into groups dependent on physical proximity" (col. 2, lines 22-23). Instead, Ayala provides a single central office switch which queues calls and then sends paging or public address messages to intended recipients. Thus, Ayala does not appear to have anything to do with local or remote groups, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that, if anything, Ayala teaches away from the present invention, which provides an enhanced network-wide group pickup system.

As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

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For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

*Francis Montgomery*

Francis G. Montgomery  
Registration No. 41,202

Siemens Corporation  
Intellectual Property Department  
186 Wood Avenue South  
Iselin, New Jersey 08830  
(732) 321-3130

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### Marked Up Claims

1. (Twice Amended) A group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising:

an invite request unit to invoke the group pickup system;

a group pickup request unit responsive to said invite request unit to establish a connection to a group pickup destination to enable a caller station to be [pickup] picked up from said destination, said destination being a user selectable location located on any group server anywhere within the network; and

a retrieval request unit to connect a call pickup station with said caller station;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

9. (Twice Amended) A method for picking up a call in a group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising the steps of:

invoking the group pickup system;

establishing a connection to a group pickup destination to enable said caller to be parked at said destination, said destination being a user selectable group parking location located anywhere within the network; and

connecting a call pickup party with said parked caller;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

12. (Twice Amended) A group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, comprising:

means for invoking the group pickup system;

means responsive to said invoking means for establishing a connection to a group pickup destination to enable said caller to be parked at said destination, said

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destination being a user selectable group parking location located anywhere within the network; and

means for connecting a call pickup party with said parked caller;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

15. (Twice Amended) A system for enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising:

a request unit to enable operation of the group pickup system when there is an unanswered call at a member station;

a connect unit responsive to said request unit to make local and/or remote connections to various local and/or remote group member stations within the network which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations; and

a call establishing unit for establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

22. (Twice Amended) A method of enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising:

enabling the group pickup operation when there is an unanswered call at a member station anywhere on the network;

making local and/or remote connections to various local and/or remote group member stations which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations;

and establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.